

Remarks

Claims 1-74 are pending in the present application. Applicant appreciates the acknowledgment of allowable subject matter in the present application. By this amendment, claims 60-63 and 65-68 are amended. Claims 1-59, 64 and 69-74 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The claims have not been amended for reasons related to patentability, but to expedite the allowance of the case. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present claims in view of the following remarks.

Entry of the above amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 (a) in that the above Amendment (1) places the claims in condition for allowance; (2) places the claims in better condition for consideration on appeal, if necessary; (3) does not raise any new issues; and (4) does not add new claims without canceling a corresponding number of claims. For the reasons given above, entry of the above amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

The Office Action objects to the claims as being “misnumbered.” The foregoing claim amendments render this objection moot.

The Office Action objects to claims 60-63 and 65-68 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant again appreciates the acknowledgment of allowable subject matter. Applicant has amended claims 60-63 and 65-68, and respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of these claims.

Claim Rejections

The Office Action rejects claims 59 and 64 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,154,727 to Karp et al. (hereinafter “Karp”).

Applicant canceled claims 59 and 64. Accordingly, rejections of these claims are now moot.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 8, 13-22, 26, 30, 35, 40-53, 58, and 69-74 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Karp. Applicant canceled claims 1, 2, 8, 13-22, 26, 30, 35, 40-53, 58, and 69-74. Accordingly, rejections of these claims are now moot.

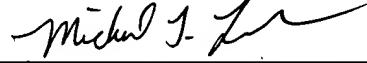
The Office Action rejects claims 3-6, 7, 9-12, 23-25, 27-29, 31-34, 36-39, and 54-57 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Karp in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,321,092 to Fitch et al. (hereinafter “Fitch”). Applicant canceled claims 3-6, 7, 9-12, 23-25, 27-29, 31-34, 36-39, and 54-57. Thus, rejections of these claims are now moot.

Conclusion

For at least these reasons, Applicant asserts that pending claims 60-63 and 65-68 are in condition for allowance. Applicant further asserts that this response addresses each and every point of the Office Action, and respectfully requests that the Examiner pass this application to allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at 404.954.5100.

Respectfully submitted,
MERCHANT & GOULD

Date: August 4, 2004



Michael T. Lukon
Reg. No. 48,164

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(404) 954.5100

